

REMARKS

Claim 4 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

Claims 1, 5, 6 and 23 have been amended and new claims 29-36 have been added.

Claim 1 and 29 recite water tight seals being located on a line extending generally perpendicularly through the longitudinal axis, which is not taught or suggested by Kooiman (U.S. Patent No. 6,109,964). Claim 23 similarly recites at least two seals located on a line extending generally perpendicularly through the transmission line which is not taught or suggested by Kooiman.

For at least these reasons claims 1-3, 5-7 and 23-36 avoid the prior art of record.

Accordingly, all of the claims (claims 1-3, 5-7 and 23-36) are in condition for allowance and such action is, respectfully, requested.

Applicant reserves the right to pursue claims 4 and 8-22 in a subsequent divisional application.

The examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if there are any matters that require further action.

No additional claims fees appear to be due. It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and that shortages in fees, if any, be charged, or any overpayment in fees credited, to the Account of Barnes & Thornburg, Deposit Account No. 02-1010 with reference to file 8392-69554.

Respectfully submitted,

BARNES & THORNBURG LLP



Richard B. Lazarus
Reg. No. 48,215
(202) 289-1313